



A ranger led program of the New Orleans Jazz NPS, with Rangers, Bruce Barnes & Matt Hampsey at the performance hall of the Old U.S. Mint.

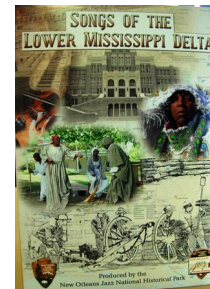
Photo by: Danny Kador

**Southeast Region has presented this year's Keeper of the Light Award for Interpretive and Educational Excellence to four Southeast parks.** The award was established in 2001 to recognize parks that have excelled in interpretive efforts and in collaboration with other park divisions in support of reaching out to the visiting public with interpretation and educational messages. The award was apply named the Keeper of the Light Award after the successful move of the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse in 1999. The award is presented to Southeast Parks in four categories – interpretive media, educational outreach, interpretive support, and special events.

**Interpretive Media, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park** – The park created two high quality CD's, "Freedom is Coming" and "Songs of the Mississippi". "Freedom is Coming" gives listeners the concept of resistance to enslavement, and the history of the Underground Railroad. "Songs of the Lower Mississippi Delta" highlights the rich cultural diversity and history found in the music of the lower Mississippi delta. This CD was dedicated to the memory of National Park Service employee David Larsen, a lover of jazz and an inspiration to all interpreters in the National Park Service.

## Keeper Of The Light Awards Conferred

By Don Wollenhaupt, Chief of Interpretation and Education, Southeast Region  
December 2012



Both CD's "Freedom is Coming" & Songs of the Lower Mississippi Delta" are available for purchase at the Ranger Stations of NOJNHP, at the Old U.S. Mint & the NOJNHP visitor center- 916 N. Peters.....\$16.99



# Jazz Tracks

New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

Dec.20, 2012 Num. 02

New Orleans Jazz  
National Historical Park  
www. NPS.GOV/JAZZ



Visitor Center 916 N. Peters St.  
(504) 589-4841

Old U.S. Mint  
400 Esplanade Ave., N.O. 70116  
(504) 589-2265

Perseverance Hall/ Armstrong Park  
Saturdays: (504) 589-2293



**Big Al Carson dedicates "Oh, Holy Night" and sings in memory of the "20 Angels" lost in the Newton, Conn. tragedy.**

Dec. 15, 2012,

Big Al  
Carson  
and the

Lars Edegran's Riverwalk Jazz Band performed for a record numbers of visitors at the NOJNHP Performance Hall at the Old US Mint, as part of the park's holiday concert series.

Increasingly the word has begun to spread of the parks, jaw dropping daily concerts that are given by the NOJNHP as part of its mission to interpret the story of Jazz for the public.

*This is dedicated in memory of the  
"20 small Angels" who recently left this physical  
Earth way too soon.*

*As employees of the NPS, please join me in  
pledging in the coming weeks to work toward  
making a positive difference in the lives of those  
who visit our National Parks.  
With smiles and welcoming hearts, lets pass on  
acts of kindness, whether small or large, let's pass  
a little goodness on.*

*Let's work together to make the world a better  
place for the children & visitors of our  
National Parks*

*Join me in passing it on.....*

**To Our  
Co-Workers:**  
Carol Clark,  
Steve Handley,  
Brian King.

**From all of us  
at JAZZ, we  
will miss you!  
Good Luck &  
all the Best!  
NOJNP**

*"Jazz is played from the heart.  
You can even live by it.  
Always love it."*

*Louis Armstrong*



Sat. 15-  
"Holiday  
X-Mas Gumbo"  
performed by  
Richard Scott for  
an enthusiastic  
audience at  
NOJNHP.



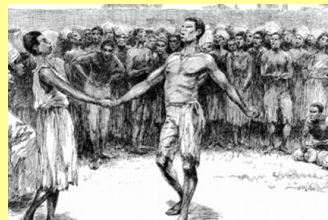
## JAZZ Tracks New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park

**CONGO SQUARE** The sketches of drums and a banjo like instrument (shown below) were made by Benjamin Henry Latrobe in 1819, as he observed them in Congo Square. Latrobe's



The banjo found itself to New Orleans from the Caribbean, via West Africa, as did okra, and was made out of a calabash or gourd; and would evolve into the banjo

sketches show an enslaved African man with his legs wrapped over his drum, while he beats rhythmically for the dancers on the square. In the Congo, Zaire and other places of West Africa, similar drums and other instruments were played, and are still being used today.



In the time of slavery many Africans were forcibly brought to this country to be enslaved. Most slaves were not allowed to express many of their cultural traditions and spiritual beliefs, nor were they able to perform their funeral practices, or allowed to give traditional names to their children. But they were especially not allowed to play their musical instruments, as this was seen as a form of communication, besides making music.

One of the only places where the drum was allowed to still be played was in New Orleans at Congo Square on Sundays, and that was during the time that the French and then the Spanish ruled over Louisiana. In other places if you were caught drumming you could be killed or hung. The drum was seen as a voice of freedom, and was used by people who had been taken from West and Central Africa, including Angola and Mozambique. Drums were used to communicate, tell stories and play music. Many of these spoken African languages are tonal, and were, and still are used to speak and communicate with. Using the drums and other instruments wasn't exactly like using Morse code, but importantly they could still use the drums to speak with, communicating entire languages, and even proverbs, riddles, histories, and epics. *(Continue on next page)*

### Calendar of Events at New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park -Dec. 20-29, 2012

**Thursday, Dec.20**

**3:00-4:00**

**Old U.S. Mint**

Park Rangers, Bruce Barnes & Matt Hampsey perform a musical demonstration focusing on the role of Blues in the development of jazz. A concert to not be missed! Highly recommended.

**Saturday, Dec. 22 & Sat. Dec.29**

**11:00-12:00**

**Perseverance Hall in Armstrong Park**

Kids are invited to bring their instruments during our "Music For All ages" program.

**Saturday, Dec.22**

**2:00-3:30**

**Old U.S. Mint**

Don't miss the venerable **Lionel Ferbos & the Louisiana Shakers** for this concert featuring many icons of traditional New Orleans jazz. If you are going to attend one concert, this is the one you don't want to miss!

**Friday, Dec. 28**

**2:00**

**Old U.S. Mint**

Fred Kastin continues his "Talkin' Jazz" interview series with jazz vocal legend Germaine Bazzle.

**Saturday, Dec.29**

**2:00-3:30**

**Old U.S. Mint**

New Orleans vocalist **Thais Clark** belts out Blues & traditional N.O. jazz style, accompanied by top flight musicians from the famous Palm Court Jazz Café.

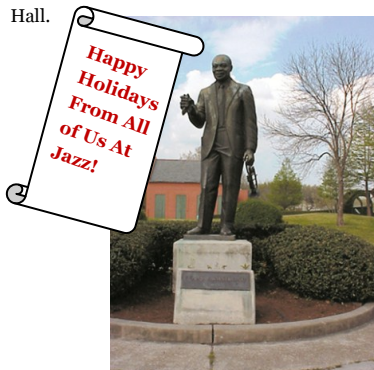


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The plantation owners knew that the drums were being used for communicating messages besides musical entertainment, and since they could not speak the indigenous languages of the enslaved Africans, they banned the drums from being used other than in New Orleans.

Many African people that had been brought to the Americas found ways to hide or camouflage various forms of musical instruments. For example, jugs were very unsuspecting as they were used to carry liquids in, but could also be used to play music on, and communicate messages through sound. Besides drums, horns were made from animal tusks and were played as a musical language, and by way of the different sounds communicated proverbs, history and instruction to people. By Prudence Grissom

Scene of this summer's NOJNHP first Jazz Camp. Campers were instructed in traditional African drumming at Perseverance Hall.



New Orleans Jazz Pepper Pie JAZZ/JELA Holiday Party. Thanks everyone, a good time was had by all!



## JAZZ Tracks New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park



These sketches were made by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, during the early 1800s. He was considered to be the father of American architecture, and was a keen observer of life while living in the city, drawing sketches as part of a journal that he kept, writing on life in N.O.



“Perseverance Hall, a site in Armstrong Park is part of the N.O. Jazz National Historical Park, and is crucial to the city’s musical heritage. Historically, Perseverance Hall (ca.1820) was used for dances, where African-American and Creole jazz performers and bands played for diverse audiences of New Orleans. Nearly, two centuries later, under the National Park Service ownership, this music tradition remains active with the park’s “Music for All Ages” brass-band program on Saturdays.” *L.A. Cultural Vistas Magazine- Louisiana Endowment of the Arts, Association*



Ranger Bruce Barnes with participants of the Music For All Ages Program



## “Jazz Tracks”

is brought to you by- Prudence Grissom, NOJNHP- Please email questions on the history of jazz for “Professor Jazz” to be answered in upcoming editions of **Jazz Tracks**. Suggestions for upcoming articles or events are welcome & encouraged. Thanks! EMAIL: [Prudence\\_Grissom@nps.gov](mailto:Prudence_Grissom@nps.gov)